

Publication Date: February 10, 2026

Reflection Date: February 15, 2026 - [Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

A Peaceful Heart Fulfills the Law

At first glance, in the gospel reading for the [Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#), Jesus is talking primarily about the law. He clarifies that he came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it and lists out specific laws and our obligations to follow them. Primarily, though, Jesus is talking to us about our hearts.

After all, Jesus warns us, “Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of Heaven.” The gospels are clear that if there is one thing the Pharisees got right, it was adherence to the law.

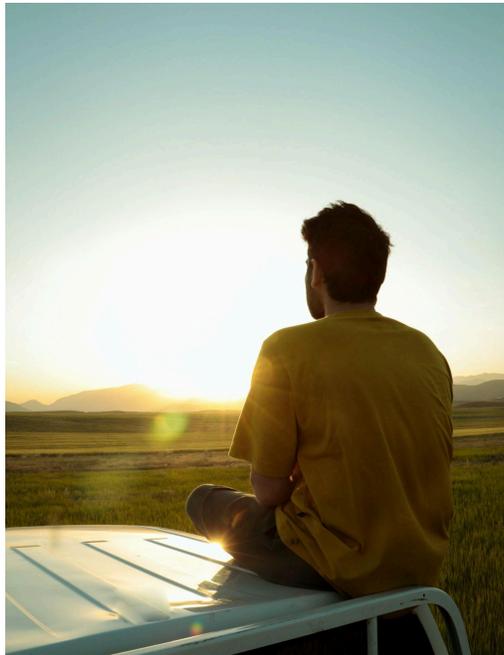


Photo by Hamed darzi on Unsplash

How can we be more righteous than the ultimate rule-followers? Through love. It is not enough to avoid killing, we must avoid anger. We should be reconciled to our brother before we approach the altar. We should avoid the lust underneath the sin of adultery, not just adultery.

This is important as we seek peace in a divided country. It is not enough to simply follow the rules or try to discern the exact right policy prescription. Responsible citizenship requires that we spend time in silent prayer, with the scriptures, and with the Lord so that we can grow in love toward God and our neighbors. As Henri Nouwen wrote in his book ***In the Name of Jesus***, “For Christian leadership to be truly fruitful in the future, a movement from the moral to the mystical is required.”

Peacebuilding in our age requires a peaceful heart that is turned toward justice. Our “yes” can truly mean “yes” when it springs from a heart that seeks the peace that Christ brings.

Chris Crawford

Senior Director of Civic Strategies at Interfaith America

Suggested Action: Spend time in silent prayer asking God to show you where you can bring peace to our public life in some way. Write to someone—whether it is a friend or an elected official—about your desire to bring peace to our world.

Suggested Petitions:

That we can each discern how we can reconcile with people with whom we have conflicts before we approach the Lord this week, we pray to the Lord.

That God can bring peace to our hearts and our communities that so desperately need it, we pray to the Lord.

Prayer

Almighty God, help us to say “yes” to you this week. Help us to seek righteousness without falling into self-righteousness. Grant us hearts that reflect your law and that seek the good of each other. We seek knowledge of your law and your love without fear, with an understanding that you are all good and desire all good for us. Be our guide as we strive to do your will this week—and always.

Amen.

Encourage the Reform of ICE and CPB



Congress has passed a short-term Continuing Resolution (CR) that temporarily funds the Department of Homeland Security, but lawmakers must decide by February 13 whether to extend funding again or pass a longer-term bill.

Gospel and Franciscan values call us to protect human dignity and to stand with immigrants and families harmed by unjust enforcement, as well as with protestors who have been brutalized.

[Click here](#) to encourage reform that would curtail widespread and brutal arrest/deportation campaigns as well as practices that have terrorized immigrants and citizens alike including masking, not wearing badges, driving unmarked vehicles, entering homes without judicial warrants, and using excessive and even lethal force against peaceful protestors.

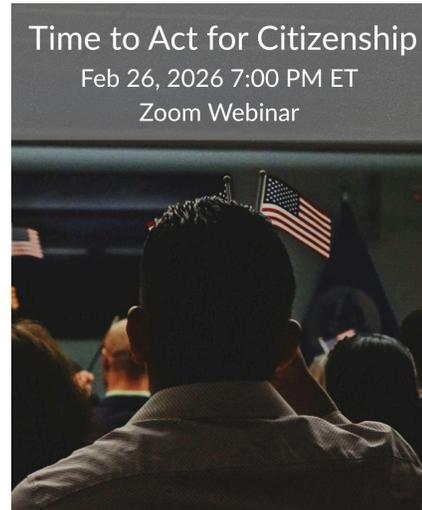
'Time to Act for Citizenship' Webinar

Time to Act for Citizenship

Thursday, February 26, 2026

7:00p ET / 6p CT / 5p MT / 4p PT

Immigration policy is shifting rapidly, with enforcement and detention increasing while long-term solutions remain unresolved. Join Franciscan Action Network for a timely webinar on Thursday, February 26 at 7PM ET/6PM CT offering a clear overview of the current immigration landscape, a faith-rooted reflection on why a pathway to citizenship matters, and practical ways to take action, including opportunities to engage through FAN's April Advocacy Days. We will also hear directly from a DACA recipient. Please register [here](#).



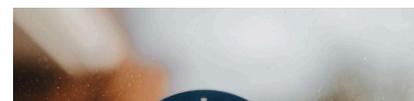
Fishes & Loaves Lenten Prayer Service



Please join FAN staff and friends for a Franciscan prayer night dedicated to anti-hunger and poverty alleviation on **Thursday, February 19, at 7PM ET / 4PM PT**. In response to Pope Leo's invitation to spiritual poverty through *Dilexi Te* and increased risks to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, we invite you to pray with and for all those who involuntarily fast during Lent. This event will launch FAN's 2026 anti-hunger campaign, Fishes & Loaves. [Click here](#) to register.

Help Stop the SAVE Act

Currently, Congress is preparing to vote on the 2026 Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, requiring



individuals to provide documentary proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections.

The SAVE act would prevent millions of eligible voters from participating in elections.

As Franciscan-hearted people, we are called to protect democracy as our most important way to resolve political differences without violence. Opposing these provisions is an important step in defending voter rights and making sure that all eligible Americans can make their voices heard. Please take action [here](#).

Cultivating a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine



Eli McCarthy, FAN Just Peace Fellow, has a new article out on building a just peace in Israel and Palestine. He writes, “This is a critical moment to examine how nonviolent resistance generated key shifts on Gaza — and how to apply hard won lessons to the next stage.” He notes, “The nonviolent campaigns and overall movement has offered creative strategy, stronger coalitions, an increase in courageous people, and some key policy shifts. It would be

wise to apply these lessons to achieving more in-depth and long-lasting, critical goals for moving forward as we turn to accountability.” Read the full article [here](#).

Franciscan Justice Circles

The **Virtual FJC** has begun a book study on *The Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr, and welcomes new folks. Born from honest conversations about the outrage and weariness so many are carrying, this book study offers a reflective space to come together. The Virtual FJC gathers on the *first and third Thursdays of each month at 2pm Eastern / 1pm Central / 12pm Mountain / 11am Pacific*, exploring *one chapter at a time*. Each session is facilitated by a different member of the group. For more information, contact Carolyn Townes, Virtual FJC Convener at ctownes@franciscanaction.org

At the **Chicagoland FJC**'s December call, they decided to live out the Cabrini Pledge by showing solidarity with people affected by the immigration crackdown. With an intent to be in solidarity with brothers and sisters they decided to gather in person for prayer, reflection, and to support the economy by dining locally and taking time to discuss experiences with residents of a neighborhood with many immigrant families directly impacted by mass detainment and deportation actions in their community. On this basis of listening and learning, the Circle will next consider how to act in justice.

Upcoming [Franciscan Justice Circle](#) (FJC) gatherings:

CT-RI FJC: Tues. Feb. 10 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom

DE-Valley FJC (PA, NJ, DE): Tues. Feb. 10 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom
New Mexico FJC: Tues. Feb. 10 at 6:30 pm MT via Zoom
Monthly National FJC call: Wed. Feb. 11 at 1:00 pm PT / 4:00 pm ET via Zoom
San Francisco Bay Area FJC: Wed. Feb. 11 at 7:00 pm PT via Zoom
Rochester, NY FJC: Thur. Feb. 12 at 3:30 pm ET via Zoom
Central Indiana FJC: Fri. Feb. 13 at 1:00 pm ET via Zoom
DC-area FJC: Sat. Feb. 14 at 10:00 am ET In Person
Asheville, NC FJC: Sun. Feb. 15 at 3:30 pm In Person
Driftless Region FJC (WI, MN): Mon. Feb. 16 at 6:00 pm CT via Zoom
Kansas FJC: Tue. Feb. 16 at 7:00 pm CT via Zoom
St. Bonaventure U. FJC: Wed. Feb. 18 at 12:30 pm ET In Person
Michigan FJC: Wed. Feb. 17 at 7:00 pm ET via Zoom
Virtual FJC (ltd. mobility): Thur. Feb. 19 at 11:00 am PT / 2:00 pm ET via Zoom
Pacific Northwest FJC: Thur. Feb. 19 at 1:00 pm PT via Zoom
NYC-area FJC: Thur. Feb. 19 at 7:30 pm ET via Zoom
SoCal FJC: Thur. Feb. 19 at 6:00 pm PT via Zoom

To find out more about any of the [FJC](#) gatherings coming up or for information about joining or forming a Circle, please sign up [HERE](#).